

Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy last two weeks it has been. I didn't get a chance to see all the sing-alongs but I made sure to visit each of the EYFS nativity plays across the three schools. What a fabulous job our Nursery and Reception children did. I must confess that I have been humming the songs ever since! Learning about Christmas supports our pupils to learn about British traditions and can also be a spring board to discuss other faiths and festivals, such as Eid, Hanukkah and Diwali.

Last week we had Christmas Jumper day across the schools. Thank you to everyone who wore a festive jumper and donated a £1 to the charity 'Save The Children' which helps children all over the world, including those in countries experiencing conflict. To date, they have raised an amazing £30 million to help children around the world.

The dinner halls were filled with festive cheer last Friday as we had Christmas lunch across the schools. The children tucked into a delicious dinner of turkey and all the trimmings. It wouldn't be Christmas without a cracker, so we were sure to have these. Did you know that crackers were invented here in London in the 1860s by confectioner Tom Smith? To finish, children enjoyed a slice of iced chocolate cake, which was a big hit. For this one day of the year the adults in our schools have their lunch in the dinner halls with the children, a lovely way to celebrate the season together and create happy memories!

All three of our Early Years (nursery/reception) settings are graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, this is such an exceptional achievement. I just wanted to remind families that if you have a child in a nursery class and they were born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, you must submit their reception class application by Thursday 15th January 2026. Also, be sure to recommend us to your friends and neighbours who are looking for either nursery or reception places!

Last of all, I wish you all a lovely extended break. Whether you are celebrating Christmas or Hannukah, or just taking the opportunity to catch up on rest, have a safe and peaceful holiday. Children return to school for the Spring Term on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 8.55am.

Kind regards,

Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher



Orchard

The Viridis Federation Choir took part in their annual Christmas Carol Concert at Homerton Hospital, which raises money for St Joseph's Hospice. The children sang beautifully, raised money for an excellent cause and left everyone feeling ready for the festive season!



Southwold

Thank you to our Friends of Southwold for a successful Winter Fayre. It was a wonderful opportunity for so many of our families to join together and enjoy the festivities. We raised a huge £2,222 which will go directly to supporting our pupils at Southwold!



Hoxton Garden

Year 6 brought festive cheer to Hoxton Garden with their festive sing-along. They shared a poem based on the classic tale from author Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, and had everyone singing along to old favourites including We Wish You A Merry Christmas!



INSET Day
Monday 5th January

Children's Start Date
Tuesday 6th January

Work & Enterprise Week
wb Monday 26th January

School closes for Half Term
Friday 13th February at 3:30pm

Children's Start Date
Monday 23rd February

World Book Day
Thursday 5th March

Spring Term Parents Evening
Thursday 19th March - School closes at 1pm

End of Term Finish Date
Friday 27th March - School closes at 1pm

INSET Day
Monday 13th April

Children's Start Date
Tuesday 14th April

Science & Technology Day
Friday 22nd May

Science Fayre
Friday 22nd May

School closes for Half Term
Friday 22nd May at 3:30pm

Children's Start Date
Monday 1st June